

WAR WITHIN:
DARK AGES

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TRANSFORMERS

WAR WITHIN

THE DARK AGES

Furman
Wildman





FIESTORMI



THE RETURN OF JETFIRE

THE TRANSFORMERS GENERATION ONE

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!

#3 *On Sale in MARCH* DW

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CYBERTRON,
THE NEUTRAL TERRITORIES...



THE DARK AGES

Writer

SIMON FURMAN

Pencils

ANDREW WILDMAN

Inks

ERIK SANDER

Additional Inks

ROB ARMSTRONG

Colors

ALAN WANG

Letters

RAMIL SUNGA

Letters

BEN LEE



NOT
YOU.

THWANGG!

YOU.
HAD BUSINESS
HERE...WITH HIM. AND
YOU INTERFERED. SMALL
MATTER OF EXECUTION.
FOR TREASON.

BE
RIGHT WITH YOU,
JETFIRE.

YOU HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT YOU
FACE. NOT A CLUE.

HE DOES, JETFIRE.
OH, NOT SPECIFICALLY,
BUT HE UNDERSTANDS
ENOUGH TO KNOW
THAT FIGHT OR FLIGHT
ARE EQUALLY FUTILE.

YOU, ON
THE OTHER
HAND...

SHUNN!



ZAAK!



...REQUIRE FURTHER EDUCATION.



YOU'RE FROM
BEFORE. AREN'T YOU?
BEFORE THE GOLDEN AGE,
BEFORE RECORDED TIME.

YOU KNOW SO LITTLE...
ABOUT WHO AND WHAT YOU
ARE, ABOUT THE FORCES AT
WORK AROUND YOU...BENEATH
YOU. THE GOLDEN AGE--HEH.



WELCOME,
JETFIRE.

...TO
THE DARK
AGE!

WE MUST ACCELERATE THE UNBINDING. IF JETFIRE SENSED MY HAND IN RECENT EVENTS, OTHERS MAY TOO.

FIND AND SECURE THE THIRD, IMMEDIATELY.

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE! AND THE FOURTH? HOW DO WE GET AT HIM??!

LEAVE THE FOURTH...
...TO ME.

MINDWIPE, BUGLY--
LET'S GO. AND THIS TIME...NO MISTAKES.

FORMER HUB-CAPITAL,
IACON.

AUTOBASE.

LET'S FACE IT,
PROWL, THAT WASN'T
OUR FINEST HOUR.

NO, NO IT
WASN'T. BUT IT
WAS A WAKE-UP
CALL.

WHILE WE SIT BACK,
TRYING TO PLAY BY THE
RULES, THE DECEPTICONS
KEEP UPPING THE
STAKES.

OW!
A-AH!

KEEP STILL,
SKIDS.

FIRST DEVASTATOR,
THEN THAT EXPERIMENT
WE HAVE CAGED DOWN
IN LEVEL ZERO...

...AND NOW TRYPTICON,
A MOBILE BATTLE STATION,
ARMY AND BASE, ALL ROLLED
INTO ONE APOCALYPTIC
PACKAGE.

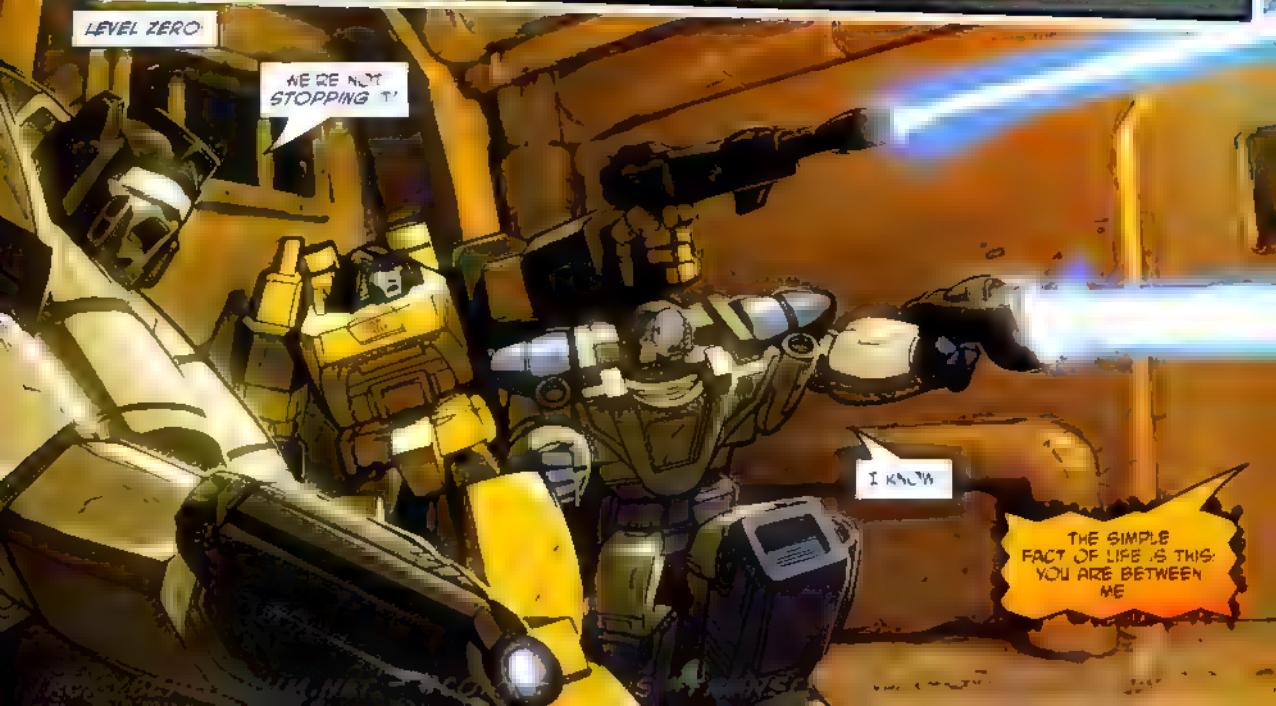
IT'S A VICIOUS CIRCLE
THEY ESCALATE, WE'RE
FORCED TO RESPOND IN
KIND, THE WAR STEPS UP
ANOTHER NOTCH IN SCALE.

JUST LOOK AT
THE WHOLE SPECIAL
TEAMS FIASCO. IT'S OUT
OF CONTROL, IT'S--

...ALL
FALLING...
APART.

HUH?







AND
THAT WHICH
I SEEK

REMOVE
YOURSELVES OR
MEET YOUR
MAKER

SOONER
RATHER THAN
LATER

IACON, THE FORMER HIGH COUNCIL PAVLION

ME EITHER

WE KNOW THE MASS INTELLECT PROCESS WAS COMPLETELY OVERHAULED BY THE AUTOBOT SCIENCE HARMONIUM.

I DON'T GET IT

THE DUMBING DOWN PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE DEVASTATOR PROTOTYPE WERE SUPPOSEDLY DEALT WITH

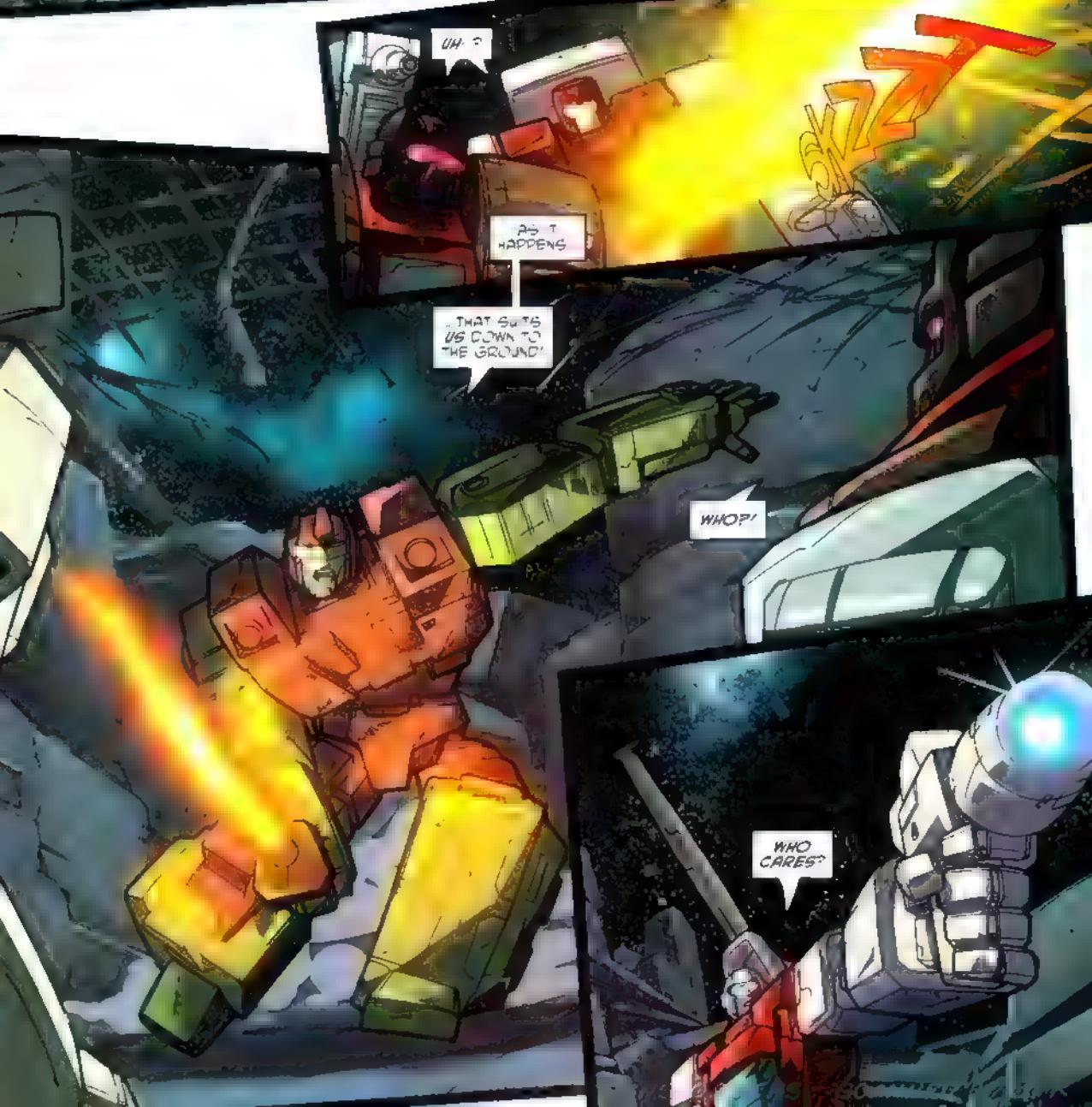
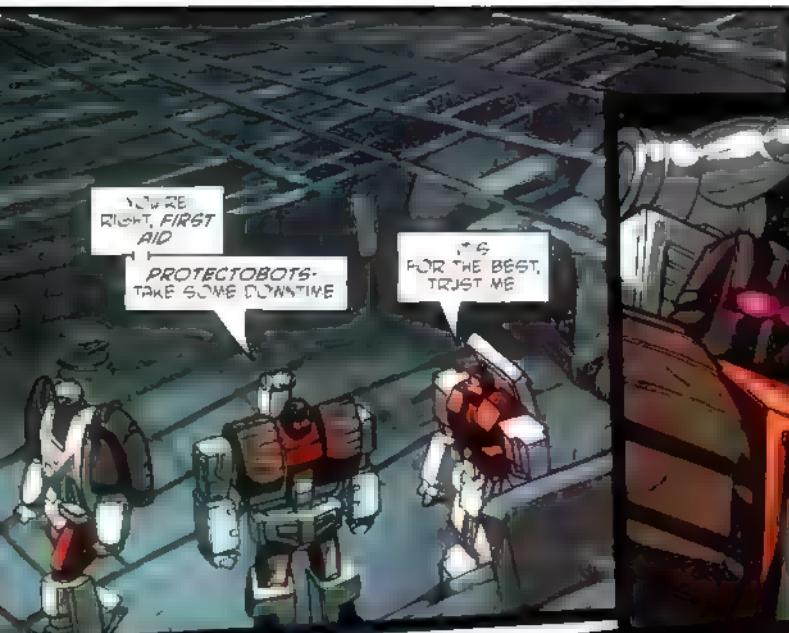
DEFENSOR'S COMPARTMENTALIZED NEURAL PROCESSOR SHOULD MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF OUR INDIVIDUAL BRAINWAVE PATTERNS, WHILE DRAWING IN EACH FOR AN INTEGRATED WHOLE

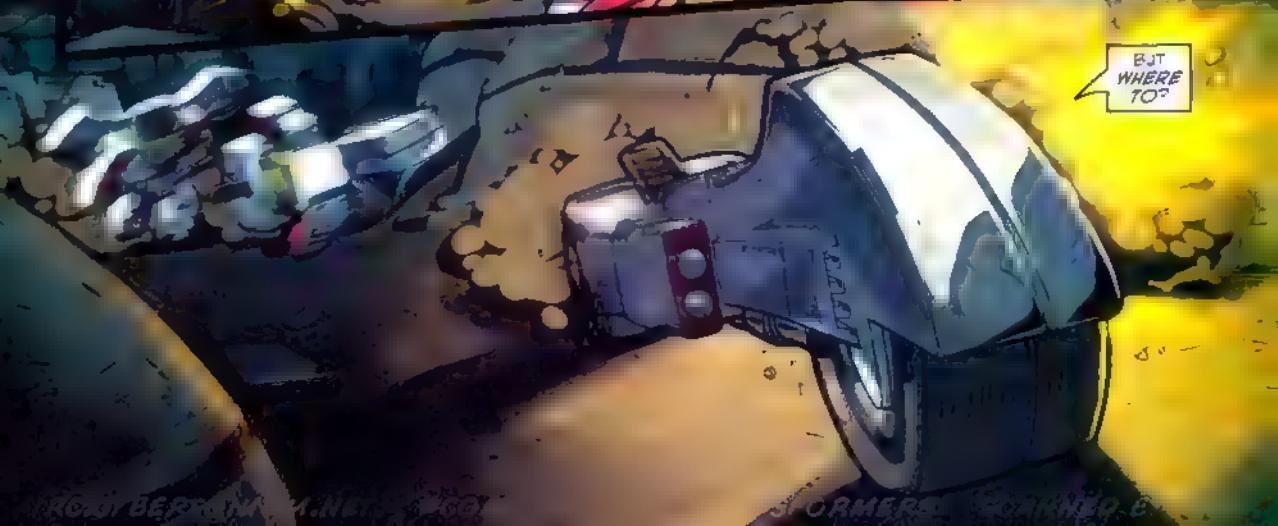
AND YET, WHEN WE COMBINED TO FIGHT DEVASTATOR, WE PRETTY MUCH LOST IT

STREETWISE: WHY?

ENOUGH! YOU'RE TIRED, HOTSPOT. WE'RE ALL TIRED SINCE THE BATTLE. WE'VE REVIEWED, SCRUTINIZED AND ANALYZED EVERY OFFICIAL OR CLASSIFIED SCHEMATIC AND DATAPACK AVAILABLE ON THE COMBINER PROCESS

LET T GO FOR NOW AT LEAST





WE'RE
PENNED IN DOWN
HERE!



HOTSPOT GIVE THE COMMAND!

GRUVE. I CAN'T!

EEAAA!

TZAAAK!

I'M SORRY

NO, HOTSPOT

YOU'RE OURS

AUTOBAGE,
LEVEL ZERO

I ADMIRE YOUR
STEADFASTNESS, YOUR
STUBBORN REFUSAL TO ADMIT
A LOST CAUSE BUT THERE IS
A THIN LINE BETWEEN
TENACITY

AND
STUPIDITY

AND
YOU CROSSED IT
SEVERAL MOMENTS
AGO

RIGHT!
THAT'S IT...

THIS IS GOING
TO HURT YOU MORE
THAN IT HURTS ME





BUMBLEBEE'S SET UP
A LEVEL ONE CONTAINMENT
FIELD WITH A CODED SUBSPACE
PERIMETER. NO ONE GETS OUT.
NO ONE GOES IN.

BUT...

...WHAT ABOUT THE
AUTOBOTS ALREADY
DOWN THERE? WE
CAN'T JUST ABANDON
THEM!

THEY COULD
BE INJURED...OR
WORSE

I'M
SORRY

SHOCKWAVE INVESTED AN
AWFUL LOT OF TIME AND RESOURCES
IN THAT ONE INDIVIDUAL, AND IT COST US
ALMOST AS MUCH TO FRUSTRATE HIS
EFFORTS. WHATEVER IT IS, OR IS
GOING TO BE

I'M NOT ABOUT
TO LET IT JUST WALK
OUT OF HERE

BUT...

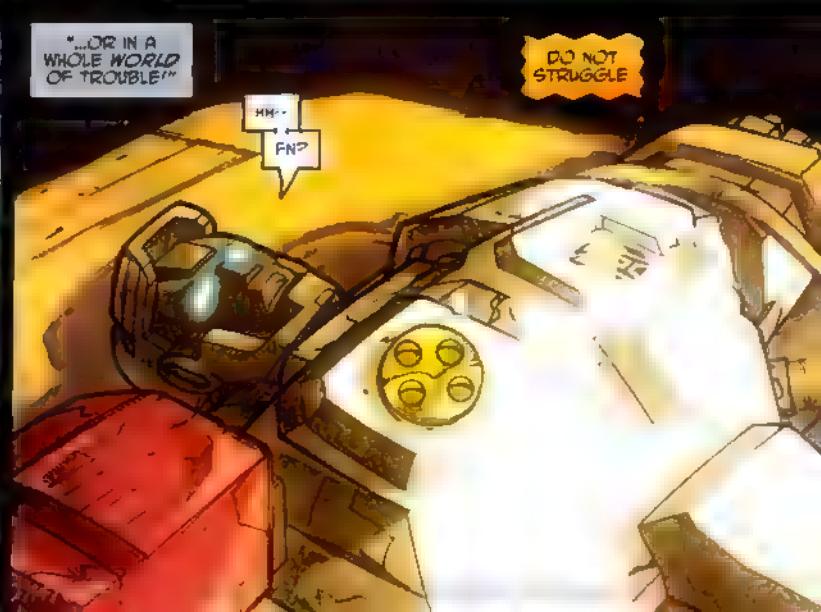
MANO
ON!

WHATEVER WE'VE
CAUGHT IN THERE...IT'S
SPITTING MAD. THE SHIELD'S
HOLDING, BUT...

I DON'T

COONG

WRECK





WH-E?

DO NOT
SPEAK.



UNDERSTAND
SIMPLY THAT YOU ARE
CASUALTIES OF WAR

NOT THIS
INSIGNIFICANT
ENGAGEMENT...



A WAR...

...OF THE
GODS!

FOR EONS, A STALEMATE:
TWO EQUAL AND OPPOSITE
FORCES LOCKED AWAY FROM
EACH OTHER, THE ONE EXILED,
THE OTHER HIDDEN.

UNTIL NOW.
THE SEAL OF PRIMUS
WILL BREAK...

...AND ALL
CHAOS WILL
FOLLOW!

TO BE CONCLUDED...

Declarations of

Here's what's 'within' the Declarations of War mailbag this month!

Is there going to be more Transformers: War Within after The Dark Ages?

Phil

Definitely, Phil! There are still several MILLION years between The Dark Ages and the time of the Generation One series, allowing plenty of room to tell more stories of the pre-earth Transformers. Look for more info on the future of *Transformers War Within* next month!

Dark Ages is the greatest. It reminds me of the TF stories by that other company in the UK that shall remain nameless. Especially with artwork by Andrew Wildman (which is awesome), the presence of the Wreckers, and I thought it was great how Grimlock almost called Swoop "Divebomb." I know I'm not the only one who got that line. Other good stuff: Ratbat, Devastator vs Defensor, Jetfire, Trypticon. I can't wait to see how this plays out, or how Optimus and Megatron get back. Who knows, maybe they won't until volume 3, that'd be a nice cliffhanger. The Fallen is so bad-ass, and I love seeing Bludgeon, he's always been one of my favorites (right after Grimlock of course). I loved him being the silent warrior in Worlds Collide, and now we see him without his Pretender shell. War Within definitely gives you a closer look at where some of our favorites came from. I mean, all the major players are in different factions now: Prowl and Jazz are with the Autobots, Ironhide, Grimlock and Kup are with the LSC, the Wreckers are on their own, the combiners are on their own. Interesting to see how things fall apart without Prime, I can't wait to see what brings them all back together. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Simon Furman is the man!!! And the best part is, Brad Mick and Simon Furman are working closely on this so that what happens in War Within can be carried over into G1 i.e. Ironhide and Kup reuniting in G1 volume 2. Questions:
1) Can you please show Ultra Magnus in the

1) Can you please show Old & Knights in the volume 3?
2) How about other characters like pre-

Headmasters Scorpions and Fort Max in volume 3 as well?

That's all for now, keep up the good work. Your TF books just keep getting better and better.

Tobias May
Naperville,

11) A glimpse of "War Within Ultra Magnus" can actually be seen in a flashback scene in

Transformers: Generation One Vol.2 #6, so you know for sure that he played some part in that era... 2) Well, we've already seen pre-Pretenders like Bugly and Bludgeon, as well as some pre-Triple Changers like Springer and Blitzwing...could pre-Headmasters be far behind? Keep reading!

Absolutely loved the new issue. Between this and the GI series I get my Transformers fix every month. Quick question though. Any chance of having a War Within: More than Meets the Eye? If ever there should be a More Than Meets The Eye series it should be for this book. Don Figueiro's designs are incredible. He keeps what is the heart of the character, yet the retro-cybertronian modes are awesome.

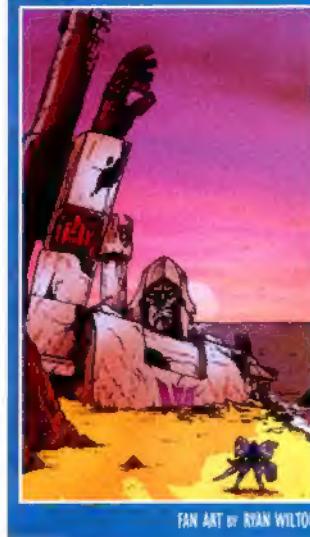
We the fans need this series.

Thanks
Rob Messick

For now Rob, you'll have to make due with *MTMTE: Transformers Generation One*, and the all-new *MTMTE: Transformers Armada* profiles series. But...an official guide to the *War Within* WOULD be a welcome addition to the *MTMTE* line-up, as well as a great opportunity to show off artist extraordinaire Don Figueiroa's amazing design work. So, a quick message to all you *War Within* fans, keep writing in and show us how much you want a *MTMTE: Transformers War Within* Official Guidebook!

Join us next month for the cybertron shattering conclusion to *Transformers: War Within 'The Dark Ages'*!

ROGER LEE
Editor-in-Chief,
Dreamwave Productions



FAN ART BY KAREN WILTO



**#6
NEXT MONTH**

With the shock wave composed of the very fabric of the planet, the Fallen prepares to crack the seal on the Well of All Sparks, lighting CYBERTRON up like a beacon. Somehow SHOCKWAVE must convince the AUTOBOTS to bolster his all-out attack on the Fallen...before it's too late for them all.

WAVELENGTHS

JANUARY 2004 • FEBRUARY 2004 • FEBRUARY 2004 • FEBRUARY 2004 • FEBRUARY 2004

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE TRANSFORMERS IS BACK!

Now you can capture all the in-depth details of the hottest TRANSFORMERS series in years: **TRANSFORMERS ARMADA!** From AUTOBOTS to MINI-CONS—and everything in between—you'll find stunning art and all-new profiles on every page of this 3-issue series.

Fan-favorite artists **Pat Lee**, **Don Figueira**, **James Raiz**, **Joe Ng**, and **Guido Guidi** all contribute to this ultimate guide, while TRANSFORMERS fanatics **Adam Patyk** (TRANSFORMERS G1: MTMTE) and **Brad Mick** (TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION ONE) provide an in-depth look at the big bots with detailed and revealing profiles.

Still not satisfied? Want even more bang for your TF-buck? You got it. The series will feature 3 interlocking covers which combine to form one massive image! Also included is a special comic tie-in to the exciting new series: **TRANSFORMERS ENERGON**.

Don't miss out on the chance to get this exhaustive reference to the mega-hit TRANSFORMERS ARMADA toy line, cartoon, and comic. Whether you want to catch up with your favorites or get in on the ground floor for ENERGON, this is where to begin! **MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE: TRANSFORMERS ARMADA #1** goes on sale

March 2004.



FEBRUARY FUNDAMENTALS:

- DEVIL MAY CRY #1**
- DUEL MASTERS #4**
- TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION ONE (ONGOING) #2**
- TRANSFORMERS ENERGON #20**
- TRANSFORMERS / G.I. JOE #6**
- TRANSFORMERS: WAR WITHIN "THE DARK AGES" #5**
- TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION ONE "WARP PEACE" TPB**



I'm going to miss those giant robots.

The Joes aren't finished with me yet—or I'm not through with them, depending on your view of the relationship between writers and the fictional characters who own, borrow, steal, or rent them. But the Transformers...

I'm going to miss those guys. Though I must admit that I'm one of a handful of human beings on this planet who can say, with absolute truthfulness: I know exactly what it feels like to be totally at the mercy of an evil Decepticon horde.

Neither Joe Lee nor I really knew what we were getting into when we accepted Dreamwave's TRANSFORMERS/G.I. JOE challenge. There've been moments in the course of the past eight months when I wished I'd done the math before I dove into the project. I'm a character-oriented writer—character-driven might be a more accurate

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN NEY RIEBER

TITLE: *BASE OF OPERATIONS*
VWriter

Southern USA 'yall'

CURRENT PROJECTS: Top-secret Projects for Dreamwave, G.I. Joe: Reloaded

PAST PROJECTS: Shadow Fall, Tell Me, Dark, Books of Magic, Captain America, Transformers/G.I. Joe. And a number of short comic stories that I'm really fond of, but will probably never see reprinted.

FAVORITE SAYINGS:
"It's a funny world. If you're paying attention."
"What's up with that?"

TRANSFOTS VS. JOES. WHO WINS?

Tough to say, without specifying which incarnation of the two teams we're talking about, or why they're fighting. The Autobots definitely have the edge on the Joes...physically. But the Autobots are nice. They don't have the Joes' drive or killer instinct.

description. And by the time I'd grasped the full implications of scripting a six-chapter, 132-page adventure story with a core cast of almost forty strong and distinct main characters, it was too late. I was surrounded. The Joes and the Cobras, the Autobots and the Decepticons...they owned me.

It's a lot harder than it may look from a distance, writing—or drawing—a team book. Let alone a four-book team book.

But it's also a lot more fun.

Thanks for the rides, guys—Optimus, Iron Hide, Grimlock, Hound, Bumblebee...

I'll never forget.

There's a little giant robot in all of us.

JOHN NEY RIEBER

January 20, 2004

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MARCH 2004

GHOSTS OF THE PAST

Simon Furman • Guido Guidi

TRANSFORMERS ENERGON #21

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